How do Software Architects consider Non-Functional Requirements? a survey...

60 software architects answered the survey

- The most influential NFR is Reliability
- The least influential NFR is Portability

Weighting formula:

\[
\text{Weight} = \frac{\sum \text{Answer}}{\# \text{Answer}}
\]

- 0 = None
- 1 = Marginal
- 2 = Medium
- 3 = Important
- 4 = Critical

Reliability is the only NFR considered critical by a majority of respondents

Organizational and Portability NFRs were considered medium importance by a majority of respondents

Surprisingly, Cost is not on top position for architects

NFRs importance in software architectural styles:

- In 3-Layer Architecture, Maintainability is slightly more important than Reliability
- SOA and MVC architects gave higher importance to all requirements (about 0.5 points extra)

David Ameller and Xavier Franch
{dameller, franch}@essi.upc.edu
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - GESSI

Technical profile:
- Population: 60 respondents (>50% from Spain)
- Medium: Electronic Survey (Limesurvey)
- Begin/End: March 2009 - October 2009